

The Message Notes

Message: *Community in Christ*
May 16, 2021



John 17:22. “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may **be one as we are one**. **23.** I am **in them** and you are **in me**. May they **experience** such **perfect unity** that the world will **know** that you sent me and that you **love** them as much as you **love** me.”

Objective: We want to be **awakened** to our community in Christ according to being a **member** of Christ’s Body, so we can receive the **blessings** from **walking in unity** with one another.

Christ’s prayer for community:

John 17:22. “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as **we are one**.”

- God is three persons in community – “trinitarian” Genesis 1:26
- Marriage is two in community – “two are united into one” Matt. 19:5
- All things are possible in community – “let us” Genesis 11:4-6

Christ wants us to experience perfect unity:

v23. I am **in them** and you are **in me**. May they **experience** such **perfect unity** that the world will **know** that you sent me and that you **love** them as much as you **love** me.” (NLT)

“Jesus prayed for His followers - all who would **believe** in Him for **all the ages** to experience **perfect unity** through His **Body, the church**. – We’re all part of His **body, the church**.” 1 Corinthians 12:27

“**Community** in Christ – all Christ followers **united** with Christ are also **united** with one another.”

“**Objective** fact is all Christ followers are **united** in Christ body whether they **know it** or not, **like it** or not, or **feel like it** or not.”

“**Subjective** experience is not all Christ followers act like they’re part of the Body of Christ. Their behavior does not match the objective fact their part of the **Body** of Christ.”

“**Community** in Christ are Christ followers who **do not compete** against each other but **complement** one another to serve God and one another as the **Body** of Christ.”

“**Worldly** culture prescribes to these values: **individualism** (it’s about you), **determinism** (you govern you), and **consumerism** (what’s in it for you).”

“**Christian** culture prescribes we live **other person centered**, united with one another as the Body of Christ in **community**.” Philippians 2:3-4, Acts 2:44-46

Four community principles of perfect unity – I Corinthians –12:12-26 (NLT)

1. _____ – “We’re different but complementary.” verses 12-13, Galatians 3:28

Principle: We have the **same spiritual life**, so we can **experience perfect unity** in Christ with one another.

2. _____ – “God **set our place** in the Body.” verses 14-18

Principle: God **set us** in the **Body** by our **function**, so we can work **interdependently** with one another to **experience perfect unity** in Christ.

3. _____ – “I need you and you need me.” verses 19, 25-6

Principle: We’re **submissive** to one another, not looking out for our own interests but taking an interest in others too, so we can experience **perfect unity** in Christ.

4. _____ – “We clothe ourselves with love for one another.”

Colossians 3:14. Above all, **clothe** yourselves with **love**, which **binds** us all together in **perfect harmony**. (NLT)

“For us to enjoy a deep, sustaining, unbreakable **community** in Christ, it must be founded in Christ’s love for us and is extended to our love for one another.”

- a) **patience** – you walk at their pace
- b) **kindness** – you lend your strength
- c) **generosity** – you share all you have
- d) **forgiveness** – you make allowances for faults

Colossians 3:13. Make **allowance** for each other’s **faults** and **forgive** anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Principle: We **clothe** ourselves in the **love** that **flows** from Christ, so we can **bind** ourselves together to **experience perfect unity** in Christ.